AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 5 through 17, with the following replacement paragraph:

Referring again to FIG. 1, after filling out input forms 302, 304 and 306 the user conducts an electronic search 202 of the USPTO patent database 200. The USPTO database 200 is indexed according to standard patent fields 210, which are listed in~~Table 1~~ FIG. 40. The user can search the USPTO database 200 based on one or more of the standard patent fields 210. In one example, an electronic search is conducted for all patents issued to a specific assignee in a given specific time period. The first patent field is the assignee name and the second is the year. The result of such an electronic search is a list of patents 220 which belong to the specified assignee and were issued on a specified date. In addition to a patent field, the USPTO database can also be searched via a "keyword". In this case one or more keywords are formulated into a Boolean phrase and the database is searched for patents that contain the defined Boolean phrase. A user can also search the USPTO database via a "natural language" query described in U.S. 6,038,561, incorporated herein by reference.

Replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 29 through 31 and page 19, lines 1 through 7, with the following replacement paragraph:

Referring to ~~Table 3~~FIG. 42, the information contained in the Access™ database 510 is used to construct an Excel™ type spreadsheet 650. Spreadsheet 650 has columns 660 including all patent fields 651, all user-defined fields 300 and all the values associated with the user-defined fields. The values are summed for each user defined field and the sums are displayed on the spreadsheet (not shown) and on the screen shot 625, shown in FIG. 30. The Excel™ spreadsheet is used to construct Pivot™ Tables, Graphs and Patent Maps 504 and to analyze the data 506, as shown in FIG. 1. Examples of analyses include a product analysis, a technology analysis, a business driver's analysis, a core competency analysis, a timing analysis, a silver bullet analysis, a claims analysis, a patent assessment tool analysis and a summary analysis.

2/21

Insert the following new paragraphs on page 7, line 27:

FIG. 40 shows a prior art table indicating standard patent fields.

A3

FIG. 41 shows a table listing all user fields and their definition.

FIG. 42 shows two tables illustrating Microsoft Excel™ Master Worksheet.

Amend the Abstract of the Disclosure section as follows:

~~This invention describes a~~ A method (100) of researching and analyzing information contained in documents that belong to a first database (200) and are organized according to a first set of fields (210) for an electronic search and retrieval by a computer (850). The method includes the steps of: a) conducting an electronic search (202) of the first database to retrieve at least one document; b) developing user-defined fields (300); c) reading (310) the at least one document to retrieve information pertaining to the user-defined fields; d) entering into a second database (510) the at least one document, values of the first set of fields for the at least one document, the user-defined fields and the retrieved information pertaining to the user-defined fields; ~~into a second database~~ and e) analyzing (506) the information contained in the second

A4

database. ~~An example of a first database is the USPTO patent database and the documents are patents. In this case a user fills out input forms describing and capturing specific interests, which are used to develop user-defined fields. Examples of such user-defined fields include among others core competencies, technologies, elements, business drivers, products, fields of the invention, problems solved, intellectual property strategy, priority, capabilities, level of novelty, market size, maturity of technology, patent strategy, business strategy, importance of products, detectability of the invention, use of the invention by competitors, suppliers, and customers, alliance potential or technology transfer potential and prestige.~~

[THE REST OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

3/21